Albany State University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 2, 2015

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President
SACS Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033

RE: Substantive Change Notification of Expected Institutional Consolidation

Dear President Wheelan:

This letter serves as our formal notification to SACSCOC of the action taken by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents on November 10, 2015 to pursue the institutional consolidation of Albany State University and Darton State College, effective in January 2017, pending the review and approval of our Substantive Change Prospectus by the Commission at its Annual Meeting in December 2016. Accordingly, we expect to complete and submit to you our Substantive Change Prospectus for Institutional Consolidation by September 15, 2016 as required by Commission policy. Both institutions are members of the University System of Georgia, operating under the same governing board, and are currently separately accredited by SACSCOC.

At that same November meeting, the Board of Regents also approved the intended name for the new consolidated institution and its President. The name of the consolidated institution will be Albany State University, and its President will be Dr. Arthur N. Dunning. Lessons learned from the University System's six previous institutional consolidations since 2012 will be applied in this seventh proposed consolidation. The work of the ASU/DSC Consolidation Implementation Committee and its many Operational Working Groups will soon be underway in collaboration with the University System Office staff, spearheaded by Vice Chancellor Shelley Nickel. Dr. Ed Rugg of the System Office staff will be assisting us and our Accreditation Liaisons in the coordination and production of required Substantive Change documents.

The proposed consolidation of two well-respected and complementary institutions of higher learning in Albany will create a large Level IV university of nearly 9,000 students with an enhanced regional mission in Southwest Georgia. Your assistance and that of your staff in facilitating a successful institutional consolidation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arthur N. Dunning, President
Albany State University

Paul Jones (IM)

Dr. Paul Jones, Interim President
Darton State College

xc: Chancellor Hank Huckaby, University System of Georgia
Vice Chancellor Shelley Nickel